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MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

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USSR STATEMENT TO U.S. ON GENEVA CONFERENCE

Moscow TASS in English 1835 GMT 10 Nov 75 LD

[Text] Moscow, November 10 TASS--The Soviet Union proposes that the USSR and the USA, in the capacity of the co-chairmen of the Geneva peace conference on the Middle East, jointly take the initiative towards resuming the conference.

It goes without saying that taking part from the very beginning in the resumed conference on an equal footing must be all the parties directly concerned--Egypt, Syria, Jordan, representatives of the Arab people of Palestine in the person of the PLO, and Israel--as well as the USSR and the USA, as its co-chairmen, says a message from the Soviet Government to the Government of the USA, published here.

On November 9 the Soviet Ambassador in the USA Anatoliy Dobrynin presented U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger with the following message from the Soviet Government to the Government of the USA on the matter of the resumption of the Geneva Conference on the Middle East:

"The Government of the Soviet Union deems it necessary to state the following to the Government of the USA.

"The unsatisfactory state of affairs regarding a settlement of the conflict in the Middle East remains a matter of concern for the Soviet Union. The basic causes of this conflict have not yet been removed. Israel still retains the Arab lands it seized. The legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine are being ignored. As a result the situation in that area remains dangerously tense.

"Experience shows that the road of partial measures, carried out, moreover, on a separate basis, does not lead to a resolution of the Middle East problem. Nor can it lead to such a resolution since the main, key questions of a political settlement are put aside. These are--the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the satisfaction of the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including its right to establish a state of its own. Only given the solution of these questions, can a truly lasting peace in the Middle East be established and reliable conditions for the safe existence and development of all the states of that region, including Israel, can be secured.

"The Soviet Union believed and believes that the only correct road towards achieving a cardinal settlement of the Middle East problem is the road of joint, collective efforts of all the parties immediately concerned. It is well known that it is precisely for these objectives that the international mechanism of the Geneva Peace Conference on the Middle East was set up in its time, whose co-chairmen are the USSR and the USA. This mechanism, however, has been inactive for a long time now.

The Soviet Union has always been and remains a supporter of the establishment of a lasting, just peace in the Middle East, of genuine progress in settling the Middle East conflict. The resumption of the Geneva Peace Conference in full scope would answer this objective. This is why the USSR proposes that the USSR and the USA, as the co-chairmen of the Geneva Peace Conference on the Middle East, jointly take the initiative in this matter.

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Of course, taking part from the very beginning in the resumed Geneva Conference on an equal footing must be all the parties immediately concerned--Egypt, Syria, Jordan, representatives of the Arab people of Palestine in the person of the PLO, and Israel, as well as the USSR and the USA, as its co-chairmen. It is absolutely clear, as has been determined from the outset, that the task of the resumed conference should be the attainment of an all-embracing cardinal political settlement of the Middle East conflict on the basis of relevant U.N. decisions, first of all the Security Council resolution 338 and the General Assembly resolution 3236, [figure as received] proceedings at the conference should be organized according to agreement between all its participants."